Univerzita Karlova

Filozofická fakulta

Ústav anglického jazyka a didaktiky

Bakalářská práce

Oksana Kozachukhnenko

English coordinative conjunction but

Anglická koordinační spojka but

Praha, 2018   Vedoucí práce: Ph.Dr. Gabriela Brůhová, Ph.D.

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně, že jsem řádně citovala všechny použité prameny a literaturu a že práce nebyla využita v rámci jiného vysokoškolského studia či k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.

V Praze dne 3.08.2018

Abstrakt

Bakalářská práce bude zkoumat anglickou koordinační spojku *but*. Jedná se o koordinační spojku, která může spojovat nejen věty (*John is poor, but he is happy*. (Quirk et al. 1985: 935)), ale i různé větné členy (např. přívlastek ve větě *He had a demanding but low-paid job in the public service.* (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1311)), a která může vyjadřovat různé odstíny významů, jejichž jádrem je význam odporovací. Kromě čistě adverzativního významu (*John is poor, but he is happy*.) může spojka *but* vyjadřovat jakési upřesnění nebo opravu (‚repudiation') výpovědi v první větě: *Jane did not waste her time before the exam, but studied hard every evening* (Quirk et al. 1985: 935).

Cílem práce bude shromáždit 100 příkladů se spojkou *but* (excerpovaných z Spoken BNC2014) a provést jejich syntakticko-sémantickou analýzu. U každého příkladu bude určeno, které členy jsou pomocí *but* spojeny a jaký význam spojka v daném spojení vyjadřuje. Pozornost bude věnována i dalším výrazům (např. *rather, also*), které se ve spojení s *but* mohou vyskytnout a které mohou být vodítkem při určení konkrétního významu.

Klíčová slova: koordinace, spojka, but, adverzativní význam

Abstract

This bachelor thesis will study English coordinating conjunction *but*. It is a coordinating conjunction which can connect not only the sentences (*John is poor, but he is happy*. (Quirk et al., 1985: 935)) but also various sentence elements (e.g. a modifier in the sentence *He had a demanding but low- paid job in the public service*. (Huddleston Pullum 2002: 1311)), and which can express different types of meaning, among which the core type is the adversative meaning. Apart from purely adversative meaning (*John is poor, but he is happy*.), the conjunction *but* can express a kind of clarification or correction ('repudiation') of a statement in the first sentence: *Jane did not waste her time before the exam, but studied hard every evening* (Quirk et al. 1985: 935).

The aim of this study will be to collect 100 examples with the conjunction *but* (excerpted from Spoken BNC2014) and conduct their syntactic-semantic analysis. Each example will be defined according to the type of the constituents connected by means of *but* as well as the meaning the coordinator expresses will be determined. Attention will be paid to other terms (e.g. *rather, also*) which may occur in conjunction with *but* and can be used to guide in the determination of its specific meaning.

Keywords: coordination, conjunction, but, adversative sense

List of Tables

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

This bachelor's thesis will examine the English coordinating conjunction *but* and its functions. In particular, it will investigate the variety of discourse functions of *but*. *But* is a coordinating conjunction, which allows not only the coordination of clauses, e.g. *John is poor, but he is happy.* (Quirk et al. 1985: 935), but also other sentence elements like phrases e.g. *It's hard work but very rewarding.* The meaning of *but* is primarily adverstive, nevertheless, the study will review the various nuances of semantic properties of *but*, besides its most frequent direct adversative sense.

The aim of the present study is to analyse the syntax and semantics of 100 sentences with conjunction *but* excerpted from the Spoken BNC2014. Each example will be supplied with the comment on the nature of the constituents linked by means of *but* and the semantic properties of the conjunction determining one of the functions listed in the classification. Attention will be paid to the surrounding expressions e.g. *rather*, *also*, which can appear with the use of *but* and serve to specify its meaning. Moreover, it will attempt to find out which factors affect the choice of the function paying attention to the context.

Therefore, my working hypothesis is the presupposition that the classification of the conjunction *but* as a coordinating conjunction in contemporary spoken British English is rather unsettled, since its function extends in certain cases to the function of a sentence/turn-initial coordinator which is much more likely to be found in dialogues and quoted speech as it indicates a spontaneity of reactions. The potential prevailing frequency of this particular function of *but* in the spoken register highlights the necessity to study the semantics of coordinating conjunction *but* as one of the central coordinators. The hypothesis will be tested by sorting out the frequency of conjunction *but* in its various coordinating functions and semantic properties. For this purpose, the sentences containing clauses or sentence elements connected by *but* excerpted from Spoken BNC2014 will be examined.

2 Theoretical background

The present thesis is concerned with coordinating conjunction *but* i.e. in the traditional sense: a conjoining particle allowing coordination between two equal clauses or, namely *a conjunction.* This term has received its name regarding its function as "a connective or connecting particle with the special function of joining together sentences, clauses, phrases or words" (Webster et al., 1960). In parataxis coordinating conjunctions allow several types of conjoints to coordinate on the same level. In the conjunction of the clauses the coordinating conjunction *but* appears more frequently in spoken register than in the written discourse and often is represented by its more common function – the adversative. However, other discourse functions are possible e.g. preventative, repudiation in positive sense, emphatic reaffirmation, *but* with the sense 'except', and potentially the most frequent function of *but* in a position of a sentence/turn-initial coordinator in a spoken discourse. The theoretical part of the present research describes various functions of the coordinating conjunction *but* in among other coordinating conjunctions as *and, or* and constraints in their use and its status among other parts of speech e.g. prepositions, adverbs, then moves on to summarizing different approaches to the classification of the variety of functions of *but,* and finally, it attempts to outline the principles affecting the choice of a particular function, such as, for instance, the choice of register.

2.1 Coordinating conjunctions *and, or, but*

In the case of the coordinate structure the use of coordinating conjunctions i.e. "a conjunction that marks equal grammatical rank between the words or word groups that it connects" (Webster et al., 1960) is conjoining of two entities of 'the same kind', or in other terms, consist in a relation of parataxis. These may be either non-clausal conjoints e.g. pronouns, noun phrases or clausal conjoint i.e. complete, logically independent propositions. *And,* in particular, may connect clauses of different types, for instance, it conjoints not only assertions as in *John plays the guitar, and his sister plays the piano* (Quirk et al. 1985: 921), but also imperatives: *Just read up on it and let us know.* (conv.) (Biber et al. 1999: 79). As it is noted from Biber et al. (1999, 113) *and* in the register of the academic prose more frequently allows to connect the noun, verb, adjective and adverb phrases e.g. *red and blue dresses* (Biber et al. 1999: 113), *fight and argue*, *black and white*, *deliberately and defiantly* (Biber et al. 1999: 113). Moreover, *and* is used in embedding structures i.e. subordinate clauses e.g. *He asked to be*

transferred, because he was unhappy, (because) he saw no prospect of promotion, and (because) conditions were far better at the other office (Quirk et al. 1985: 924). Furthermore, a clausal unit can be coordinated with a non-clausal unit, as in *One shower of rain and you've lost it anyway* (BrE) (Biber et al. 1999: 1070).

As for the frequency of the distribution of *and* in various registers, it is noted by Biber et al. (1999, 79) that the grammatical role of *and* in conversation, for instance, "and to a lesser extent fiction is generally used as a clause-level connector", whereas "in academic prose, *and* is more typically used as a phrase-level connector". Therefore, the important semantic property of *and* is either symmetrical i.e. concessive or asymmetrical i.e. temporal/clausal relation coordination.

Similarly to the properties of conjunction *and,* in the case of conjunction *or*, any kind of constituents of any number as well as order is noted to the possible to be conjoined.

2.1.1 Constraints on the use of *but*

Unlike *and* or *or* the use of the conjunction *but* is rather limited due to its particular semantic properties. One of them being the particular order of the conjoints required in the sentence when the coordinating conjunction *but* is applied in, for instance, the adversative sense, which implicates the asymmetrical relationship between the conjoins. However, the same requirement for the asymmetrical relationship is not true of all coordination with *and*.

Another distinctive pervasive feature of *but* is that is very likely to be found in sentence/turn-initial position in spoken register e.g. in a dialogue or quoted speech, the discourses in nature implying the spontaneous reaction. Furthermore, it is pointed out by Biber et al. (1999, 83) that in the written texts, sentence-initial coordinators may occur at paragraph boundaries, which creates a kind of "marked effect". Another detail Biber et al. (1999, 83) observe is the fact that "considerable forward planning is required to construct a sentence with a concessive adverbial clause". In this case the speaker has to have two propositions in mind before he starts to speak. Thus, the speaker realizes that both propositions are running counter to the other and simultaneously manages with the speech production. Therefore, the frequency of *but* in conversation is often related to its one sense which is also greater expressed in conversation than in the expository registers. To be more specific *but* allows for "a somewhat delayed indication of incompatibility" (Biber et al. 1999: 851).

2.2 Semantic differences of coordinating conjunctions *and, but, or*

The more usual form of coordination, a syndetic type of coordination, implies the construction to be marked by what Quirk et al. (1985, 918) call overt signals of coordination (*and, or, but*) i.e. coordinating conjunctions (Quirk et al. 1985: 918). A*nd, or, but* belong among the linking words which explicitly indicate coordination of units of the same rank. Such paratactical i.e. *'equal arrangement'* coordination involve the constituents at the same level of constituent structure (Quirk et al. 1985: 918). Furthermore, as Quirk et al. (1985, 920) state, the distinctive feature of certain cases of coordination is that in some constructions the relation between the two linguistic units can be reversed without a change of meaning, as in the following example:

(1) Mary studies at a university and John works at a factory.

= John works at a factory and Mary studies at a university.

However, as Quirk at al. (1985, 920) specify further, this feature is dependent on several syntactic, semantic factors including the relationship of meaning between the coordinated units. The violation of the factor of the pragmatic asymmetry is illustrated as follows:

(2) He died and he was buried in the cemetery.

He was buried in the cemetery and he died.

Therefore, as we can see, the interchangeability of the units is limited to certain uses of what Quirk at al. (1985, 920) call central coordinators *and, or*, whereas coordinator *but*, they notice, differs from the previous two in some respects, including the impossibility of the reversal of the constituents without the violation of the syntactic/semantic symmetry factor. As for the conjunction *for*, CGEL classifies it among the subordinators (Quirk et al. 1985: 921).

Another aspect of usage of particular coordinating conjunctions is reflected in LGSWE, where Biber at al. (1999, 81) point out that the peripheral uses of *but* e.g. in the function of a preposition, an adverb and a part of a complex coordinator is heavily restricted according to the context.

2.3 Syntactic features of central coordinating conjunctions *and, but, or*

It is suggested by Quirk at al. (1985, 921) that the syntactic basis of the distinction between the coordinating conjunctions is more of a gradient then of a clear-cut nature, which is exemplified through six features applied to the different coordinators:

1. Clause coordinators are restricted to clause-initial position

This restriction feature finds its application as for the use of central coordinators *and, or*, as well as for *but*:

> (3) John plays the guitar, and his sister plays the piano.

> *John plays the guitar; his sister and plays the piano.

2. Coordinated clauses are sequentially fixed

Clauses with initial *and, or* or *but* in them are fixed in relation to the sequence of the previous clause, which implies the impossibility to transpose them without changing the relationship between the clauses:

> (4) They are living in England, or they are spending a vacation there.

> *Or they are spending a vacation there, they are living in England.

3. Coordinators are not preceded by a conjunction

Under this restriction Quirk at al. (1985, 922) suggest that *and, or, but* and *for* do not allow another conjunction to precede them. Conjunctions, on the other hand, can precede conjuncts.

4. Coordinators can link clause constituents

For the coordinators *and* and *or* the linking of the constituents that are smaller than a clause (e.g. predicates as in *[I may see you tomorrow] or [I may phone later in the day]. I [may see you tomorrow] or [may phone later in the day]*.) is possible (Quirk et al. 1985: 924).

5. Coordinators can link subordinate clauses

Furthermore, Quirk at al. (1985, 924) point out that the application of central coordinators *and, or* extends to the linking of two subordinate clauses:

> (5) He asked to be transferred, because he was unhappy, (*because*) he saw no prospect of
> promotion, and (*because*) conditions were far better at the other office.

Unlike the central coordinators *and, or* the second subordinator (in the case of the example above) or any subsequent subordinator may be omitted when linking with conjunction *but*. On the other hand, the use of *but* is limiting the number of clauses that can be linked with it to a maximum of two with a further restriction concerning the type of the clause.

6. Coordinators can link more than two clauses

The instances of what Quirk at al. (1985, 925) call multiple coordination are concerning the cases of central coordinators making more than two clauses linked. This coordination allows all but the final instance of the conjunctions be omitted, as in the instance of the following sentence:

> (6) The battery may be disconnected, the connection may be loose, or the bulb may be faulty.

As it has been mentioned in the chapter No. 2.2 on the semantic differences of coordinating conjunctions *and, but, or,* conjunction *but* is characterized with a paratactical relation between the conjoins it connects, and therefore, in this respect it differs from *and* and *or*.

2.4 Distribution of the coordinators *and, or*

Furthermore, Biber et al. (1999, 81) mark the vast difference among the registers in the distribution of the coordinators, for instance, *and*, besides being the most common coordinator in all the registers, plays different grammatical roles in different registers. It is the most frequent in conversation and fiction, and least frequent in academic prose. On the other hand, coordinator *or* is vastly more common in academic prose than in any other register.

2.4.1 Nuances of distribution of *but* in a variety of registers

Even though such is the case for the coordinators *and* and *or*, coordinator *but* has a vastly different behavior in spoken register. As it is observed by Biber et al. (1999, 82) *but* is the only coordinator which is far more frequent in conversation than in all the other registers which they note should be seen in conjunction with the high frequency of negatives in conversation and another closely related concept: contrast, which are essential part of the interactive nature of the conversation.

But is realized in conversations far more often than in all other registers: its high frequency, suggests Biber at al. (1999, 82) should be seen in conjunction with the high frequency of

negatives and contrast in conversation due its interactive nature. Scarcity of the use of *but* to imply negation in other registers e.g. academic prose may be due to the fact that the expression of contrast is represented through other means e.g. *adverbials although, however, nevertheless, on the other hand* (Biber at al. 1999: 82). Another reason for such high frequency of occurrence of *but* can be due to an "add-on" strategy of the speaker (Biber et al. 1999: 1079) for whom the grammar of conversation is determined by a linear style of syntax.

2.5 Coordinating conjunction *but*

As this study is concerned with the examination of the variety of functions of the coordinating conjunction *but*, it is important to notice that the uses of the conjunction *but* are restricted to the context. Therefore, the differentiation in choosing of a particular function is regarded meaningful, and this is the assumption underlying the base of this study.

The theory of classification of different functions of conjunction *but* is not a deeply studied topic in the grammars, however, it has been more frequently related to in recently published studies and academic articles, signaling the extension of the interest in the nuances of semantic properties of *but*. The expansion of the interest in the field of semantics makes it hard to create a single classification list, however, my classification aims to be a summarized hierarchy of functions of the conjunction *but* discussed in different theories.

A brief outline of the classification of functions of *but* will be given in the following subchapters, supplemented by an account of some concepts which are of importance for the study, followed by a descriptive commentary on the semantic properties of each of the functions in the examples excerpted from the Spoken BNC2014 will be provided. The analysis will point to patterns of uses in language, both frequent and rare senses of *but*, which must then be interpreted in order to suggest the existence of a more consistent classification comprising the various instances of the use of *but* with distinguishable differences in function. For this purpose a comparison of the variety of functions encountered in grammars of English e.g. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Quirk, R. et al., 1985), *Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (Huddleston, R. and Pullum G. K., 2002) and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (Biber, D. et al., 2006) will be made.

As we can see, *and, or* and *but* do not function as coordinators with equal freedom. In particular cases, conjunction but is used in the instances where it has the lack of semantic

properties of a typical coordinating conjunction to be able to be attributed among them. These less frequent cases of the use of the conjunction but are pointing out the need to examine the various nuances of meaning of *but* more closely in the context besides its most frequent adversative meaning.

Such is the instance of the coordinating conjunction *but*, for example, being substituted with a concessive subordinator. As Quirk et.al (1985, 929) point out that but is exceptional among conjunctions allowing the concession in that there is the particular possibility of replacing *but* with certain concessive subordinators and conjuncts: "Since but in many instances expresses a contrast which is possible to be alternatively expressed by and followed by yet: *John is poor, but he is happy.* ['…and yet he is happy'] as well as other concessive subordinators such as *yet*, *if* and *though* (Quirk et al. 1985: 929):

(7) Tim's squat yet ferocious bulldog could be heard growling on the patio.

(8) I immediately recognized Sarah's bold if barely legible handwriting.

(9) Martin was inclined to boast about his rich though disreputable ancestors .

The abovementioned examples from CGEL indicate yet another nuance in the use of *but*, more precisely, the possibility of the gradience and overlap between coordinators, subordinators: "The possibility of the gradience and overlap between coordinators, subordinators and conjuncts has not been exhausted, thus highlighting the possible expansion of the research in this area" (Quirk et al., 1985:929).

At this point of the study of the various nuances of *but* it is important to acknowledge the variety of limitations in the use of different functions of *but* which lead to the issue of determining its classification as a coordinating conjunction. As Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 1321) point out, *but* in certain clauses seems to connect not only constituents, but when it is used with the sense of "except", it serves as a preposition in the sentence e.g. *He had a demanding but low-paid job in the public service.* Therefore, the authors suggest, "the item but falls at the boundary between coordinators and prepositions i.e. prepositions that take clausal complements, thus subordinating conjunctions in a traditional analysis. (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1321).

2.5.1 Adversative function

As has been noted by Quirk et al. (1985, 935) the sentences introduced by the conjunction *but* carries an adversative sence in the majority of instances. It is also the function that "indicates a direct contrast between two coordinates" (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1311) as in the following sentences:

(10) Kim left at six *but* Pat stayed till noon.

(11) He has [many acquaintances but few friends].

(12) She likes [not only opera *but* also chamber music].

It is worth mentioning that there is a difference in the use of this function of coordinating conjunction *but* from the uses of other typical coordinative conjunctions such as *and, or.*

In particular, the use of *but* is noted by Huddleston and Pullum to be restricted to binary structures. They illustrate this point in the following example:

(13) Kim is Irish but Pat is Welsh.

 *Kim is Irish but Pat is Welsh but Jo is Scottish.

It is mentioned that "dropping the first *but* in [ii] would make the example marginally acceptable", however the following interpretation would suggest a layered structure: "the first two clauses would form an asyndetic coordination, so that Jo's being Scottish would be contrasted with the other two being Irish or Welsh". (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1312)

The restriction to binary structures suggests that only two conjuncts are possible to be linked with coordinative conjunction *but*, unlike *and/or,* which can be illustrated by the following structure:

[conjoint #1] and/or/but [conjoint #2] and/or [conjoint #3] ... etc.

*[conjoint #1] but [conjoint #2] but [conjoint #3]

The binary restriction in the use of *but* is mentioned in another article on the use of *but* (Gleitman 1965: 266). According to Guilman, the type of the constituents connected by *but* seems to influence the choice of the type of clause introduced by *but* e.g. sentences, certain predicates, adjectives, verbs, adverbs may be conjoined with *but*. However, such constituents as

for example prepositions may not. Therefore, Gleitman observes "iteration of conjunction with *but* is almost totally excluded" (Gleitman 1965: 266). The following examples from the article on certain conjunctions containing this opposition shows this complication in the syntactic analysis of *but*:

(14) He respected but feared the Hungarians.

*He liked but knew the Hungarians.

Therefore, Gleitman concludes that the use of *but* as a coordinating conjunction is more restricted than the use of the coordinating conjunctions *and* and *or*, which is also pointed out by Quirk et al. (1985: 935).

2.5.1.1 But with the noun phrases as fronted objects

As Biber et al. (1999, 901) observe, there is an additional involvement of *but* with other elements of the clause for instance, with the types of objects which are fronted with the purpose of expressing contrast e.g.

(15) Bess was satisfied with her hair, but her freckles she regarded as a great and unmerited affliction.

In this example, Biber et al. note that "the contrast is made explicit not only by the reference to both contrasted entities, but also through the conjunction *but*". (Biber et al. 1999: 901)

2.5.2 Preventative function

A study of the frequencies of particular semantic functions employed in *but*-clauses in Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 1311) shows predominance for the adversative function. However, Quirk et.al also note that *but* is not always adversative: "it can be used dynamically, in the preventative use, when the complement is dynamic". (Quirk et al. 1985: 935)

In the case of the preventative use of *but* "the situation expressed in the second coordinate prevents the realization of the one hypothetically entertained in the first" (Quirk et al. 1985: 935), exemplified as follows:

(16) I would have gone, but I was too busy.

The criteria for the preventative use of but "the situation expressed in the second coordinate prevents the realization of the one hypothetically entertained in the first – my being too busy prevented my going" (Quirk et al. 1985: 935).

2.5.3 Repudiation in positive terms

The main function of coordinating conjunction *but* is, as previously noted, to convey the adversative sense. In addition to the adversative and preventative sense, discussed in Huddleston and Pullum, Quirk et al. point out another specific nuance of meaning of the conjunction i.e. repudiation in positive terms: "The contrast expressed by *but* may also be a repudiation in positive terms of what has been said or implied by negation in the first conjoin". This is illustrated by the sentence:

(17) Jane did not waste her time before the exam, but studied hard every evening.

The authors note that "With this meaning, *but* normally does not link two clauses, but two smaller constituents; for example, the conjoins are two predicates which is the case of this example" (Quirk et al. 1985: 935).

2.5.4. Emphatic reaffirmation

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 1312) mention sentences where "*but* is occasionally used for emphatic effect with a repeated phrase", as in the sentence: *nothing, but nothing, will make me change my mind.* In such cases, the authors state "the meaning [of *but*] is "absolutely nothing". The repeated expression is generally a negative, though we also find adjectives, particularly if they denote extreme values on a scale: *It was perfect, but perfect.* (Huddleston and Pullum 2002:1312)

2.5.5 But in turn-initial position

As Biber et al. (1999, 83) asses in their corpus findings, turn-initial coordinators are found more commonly in conversation i.e. spoken register than in the written one. The discussion of findings concerning *but* functioning as a turn-initial coordinator, therefore, suggests that it fits with certain communicative purposes of conversation. This function is similar to the cases where central coordinators are a part of coordination tags e.g. *and stuff (like that), and things (like that), or so,* where the conjunctions "do not have independent reference, but rather serve to indicate

that the expression preceding the conjunction is not to be taken as precise or exhaustive" (Biber et al. 1999: 116). Another point of comparison is the register: as well as coordination tags fit in with the communicative purposes of conversation, emphasizing the interpersonal involvement rather than complete explicitness (Biber et al. 1999: 116), *but* in the position of a turn-initial coordinator, therefore, is realized in conversations far more often than in all other registers. Its high frequency, suggests Biber at al. (1999, 82) should be seen in conjunction with the high frequency of negatives and contrast in conversation due its interactive nature. This interactive explanation for the high frequency in conversation of negation exhibits the prediction that these are both devices to deny or counteract the expectations of those involved in dialogue: negation and contradiction imply interaction between opposing points of view (Biber et al. 1999: 1047).

The speaker has, therefore, at their disposal the conjunction in the tern-initial position applied for different reasons:

1. To modify their previous statement.

2. An addressee can use it to express a contradiction of a previous interlocutors' statement.

The frequency with which coordinators occur in sentence/turn-initial position and even at paragraph boundaries, i.e. "where the coordinator connects equal elements and is related in the same way to each of these elements" (Biber et al. 1999: 84) may suggest that the traditional analysis of coordination may not always be the best one. Rather, in such cases of coordination, the coordinative conjunction is more closely connected with the element which it introduces, and there is "good reason to regard it as an initiator of the following phrase or clause on a par with prepositions and subordinators (except that it does not mark the following structure as subordinate)" (Biber et al. 1999: 84). The discussion of various corpus findings relating the frequncy of the coordination with *but* in the turn-initial position in a sentence in spoken register represent a ground for acknowledging this statement and such is the interest for this research as well.

2.5.6 *But* approximating the category of another part of speech

As Biber et al. (1999, 81) point out, but, apart from being used in a coordinating function, can display the features of a preposition, an adverb as well as a part of a complex subordinator.

The following examples of the three other functions of but are taken drawn from fiction and news domains:

1) *But* as a preposition:

(18) Nobody knew that but me and nobody had her milk but me.

As we can observe from this example the use of *but* is restricted not only syntactically to certain position, but the semantic meaning i.e. the sense 'except' of but in this context (Biber et al. 1999: 81).

2) *but* as an adverb:

(19) Important as sterling is domestically, it is but one arena in the global battle to contain the dollar.

3) *But* as a part of a complex subordinator:

(20) There was no question but that the army, the Lebanese Forces militia, and a whole wave of volunteers would have put up a desperate resistance.

As we can observe from these examples the uses of *but* are restricted not only syntactically to certain position, but various uses of *but* restrict it contextually (Biber et al. 1999: 81).

3 Material and Method

3.1 Material

The analytical part of the present research is a corpus based analysis of 100 instances of coordinative conjunction *but.* For the purpose of this research the examples are excerpted from Spoken BNC 2014. This corpus is balanced with the regard to genres as it contains a large collection of samples of contemporary British English language use, gathered from a range of real-life contexts. The spoken register that typically represent the language under consideration is chosen for the purpose of supplementing the findings of other corpus based studies of, for instance, Biber et al. (1999), Huddleston and Pullum (2002).

The coordinative conjunction *but* was chosen with the purpose of exploring the patterns of language which are found within a corpus, postulating reasons for their existence or looking for further evidence to support the hypothesis as well as attempt to provide an all-encompassing classification of functions of *but* in various instances of spoken register.

The working hypothesis is that the classification of the conjunction *but* as a coordinating conjunction in a contemporary spoken British English is rather unsettled, since its functions extends in certain cases to the function of a sentence/turn-initial coordinator which is much more likely to be found in dialogues and quoted speech as it indicates a spontaneity of reactions. The potential prevailing frequency of this particular function of *but* in the spoken register highlights the need to study the semantics of coordinating conjunction *but* as one of the central coordinators. The hypothesis will be tested by sorting out the frequency of functions of *but* in its various coordinating functions and semantic properties.

The only instances of *but* constructions that were not included are ones where but is deprived of the construction following it i.e. whenever the utterances abruptly finish with *but*, or the replica is interrupted by the other speaker. In such cases the *but* does not have a meaningful position as a coordinator in the construction as the following constituent is absent. Therefore, the sentences with *but* in this position are thus eliminated form this analysis for the practical reasons as they do not represent a logical proposition. This does not mean, however, that a coordinator cannot occur in the medial position (ex.10), and in the certain cases (ex.11), (ex.14) after a pause produced in the middle of the sentence by the same speaker.

3.2 Method

The present analysis will explore the variety of instances of *but* in spoken discourse by sorting out the frequency of functions of *but* in its various coordinating functions taking in consideration its semantic properties. Furthermore, it will attempt to classify the functions according to the frequency of the distribution. Then it shall proceed to the analysis of each type of function separately.

Therefore, the theoretical part of the thesis will be provide the classification of functions of *but* with the detailed description of each one. Furthermore, the thesis will proceed with comparing the results of the corpus findings to that of the classification provided in the theoretical part supplemented by findings of other corpus based studies of, for instance, Biber et al., Huddleston and Pullum, 2002. The comparison will be drawn based on distribution of frequency presented in tables divided according to each type of function.

Each of 100 examples will be divided according to the classification and each type of function will be supplied with the comment on the nature of the constituents linked by means of *but* and the semantic properties of the conjunction determining one of the functions listed in the classification. Attention will be paid to the surrounding expressions e.g. rather, also, which can appear with the use of *but* and serve to specify its meaning. Moreover, it will attempt to find out which factors affect the choice of the function paying attention to the context. The factors influencing the choice of the type of function will also be taken in consideration in analytical commentaries following each classified function. These factors will most likely consist of: the nature of the constituents following but, the syntactic position of but in the construction.

4 Analysis

4.1 The constituents coordinated by *but*

The subject of the present research is the conjunction *but* and its various discourse functions. This research is an attempt to provide a systematized list of discourse functions that distinguishes the implications of use and describes the function specific of *but* in spoken register on the basis of the semantic properties and the nuances of each function's application determined by the environment surrounding *but*, in the context, e.g. the form of the constituents coordinated by means of conjunction *but*: clauses, phrases or individual words. Since the present research derives 100 examples from corpus-based source for its purposes, Spoken BNC2014, the prevailing majority of examples, in fact, 92% contain clause elements coordinated by *but* as can be seen from the following table:

Category of the constituent	No. of instances	% of instances
But + clause	92	92%
But + phrase	4	4%
But + Adv.	4	4%
Total:	100	100%

Table 1: Distribution of the constituents coordinated by the conjunction but

Whereas clause elements coordinated by *but* is the most frequently occuring coordinated element, there are only four instances represented by phrasal constituents, in particular, two instances of *but* forming a constituent with the noun phrases following it (ex. 78), (ex. 87):

(78) or like S0095: >> taste person S0032: I du n no **sweet** chocolatey type things **but apple pies and things** S0094: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm mm S0032: >> I get behind those /S23A 298/

(87) which is his argument S0094: yeah S0032: which I do n't agree with S0021: yeah S0032: **but** (.) **sort of instinct** S0094: mm (.) mm S0021: well UNKMALE[??]: can you pass that water please /S23A 1199/

As well as two instances of binominal phrase are present (ex.100), (ex.61):

(100) S0032: really miss them S0094: see interesting that you sent me the text going **but fruit and veg** I though mm she sounds like she needs greens /S23A 36/

(61) 'd be better separately S0094: mm S0021: mm S0094: like chocolate and mascarpone 's okay **but** S0032: >> like cheese and chutney ? S0094: **chocolate and cheddar** mm S0021: mascarpone ? S0032: >> quite /S23A 890/

4.2 Instances of use of *but* in spoken discourse

Prior to determining the role of *but* in the sentence, it is necessary first to indicate its position inside the structure of the sentence and its relation to the constituents. *But* in the role of coordinator indicates the particular relation holding between the coordinates in a sentence. However, the relation between the coordinates in the structure is different from the position of the coordinator. Therefore, *but* in a position of a coordinator is not one of the coordinates (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 225).

As long as the coordination with *but* allows it to form a constituent with the coordinate following it, its semantic properties differ depending on various functions: from a clearly recognized and most frequently and thoroughly described adversative function, typically expected of *but* being a central coordinating conjunction, to approximating the category of another part of speech e.g. a prepositional use as regards the sense 'except' as in, for example, *everyone but me*. The change of categorical affiliation from conjunction to preposition or adverb in a sentence is therefore dependent on the semantic nature of the constituents following *but*.

The variation of frequency of functions of *but* distributed across registers is, therefore, the matter of the syntactic choice of the speaker. For instance, the grammar of the conversation the linear style of syntax of utterances, is responsible for the so-called "add-on" strategy (Biber et al. 1999: 1079). Regards this case, it enables *but* to occupy the expected for the central coordinators clause-initial position although with a change in the sequence of coordinated clauses by making a clause beginning with *but* to stand out as no longer fixed in relation to the previous clause (Quirk et al. 1985: 921) as is represented in the example below:

(13)   centre cafe but it 's probably about twelve quid there S0021: yeah yeah S0021: **but then the Co-op used to do a nice cos they still do** /S23A 223/

This feature is, in fact, displaying a prevailing instance of occurrence of *but* in spoken register among other types of functions provided in a classification of discourse functions according to the frequency of their distribution which can be observed from the table 2:

	But in a turn/initial position	Adversative function	Repudiation in positive terms	Preventative function	*But* approximating the category of another part of speech	Total:
No. of instances	45	30	17	7	1	100
% of instances	45%	30%	17%	7%	1%	100%

Table 2: Distribution of functions performed by but in spoken register listed by frequency

The present analysis has revealed that out of 100 sentences containing the constructions with *but* excerpted from Spoken BNC2014 the instances where it functions as a turn/initial coordinator compiles a majority represented by 45% frequency, however, in the percentage of distribution it is close in the competition to the adversative function, which constitutes 30% of the examined corpus examples.

4.2.1 Coordinative conjunction *but* in a turn/initial position

As Biber et al. (1999, 83) state in their corpus findings, turn/initial coordinators are found more commonly in spoken register than in the written one. Since the written discourse is the basis for many grammars, in traditional sense, a 'peripheral' function of *but*, that of a turn/initial coordinator, has realized a potential of being the most pervasive feature of coordinator *but* in a spoken register contained in 45 out of 100 examples. Indeed, as the corpus finding has shown the clauses with conjunction *but* in a turn/initial position represented the prevailing number of sentences when compared to the other functions.

The surprising willingness of the speakers to use *but* more often in a 'add-on' strategy for the linear syntax of the conversation, than, for instance, as a coordinative conjunction expressing adversative meaning could reveal further differences in the semantic preferences of the contemporary speakers of English.

4.2.1.1 Function of coordinative conjunction *but* in a turn/initial position

The discussion of findings concerning *but* functioning as a turn-initial coordinator involves the understanding of how it fits with certain communicative purposes of conversation.

But is realized in conversations far more often than in all other registers: its high frequency of occurrence in the spoken register, suggest Biber at al. (1999, 82), should be seen in conjunction with the high frequency of negatives and contrast in conversation due its interactive nature. The speaker, therefore, is able use the conjunction in the tern-initial position in the spoken discourse for the following reasons:

1. To modify their previous statement as expressed making it the following 46.7% instances of *but* in a turn/initial position.
2. An addressee can use the conjunction in the tern-initial position to express a contradiction of a previous interlocutors' statement, reject a suggestion as in 24 out of 45 or 53.3% of examples.

The exact frequency of distribution of each of the two functions is displayed in the following table:

Instances of *but* in a turn/initial position	No. of examples	No. of instances	% of instances
1)	2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 29, 32, 33, 41, 45	21	46.7%
2)	1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44	24	53.3%
Total:	45	45	100%

Table 3: Instances of but in a turn/initial position according to its function

In the majority of instances, as we can see, *but* in a turn/initial position performed the function of speaker expressing a contradiction (ex. 38) with a previous interlocutor's statement or rejection (ex. 37) of their suggestion:

(38) a drink S0021: mm S0095: a slightly lumpy smoothie that you have to chew S0094: >> **but** I often make those cos I get bored of blending and it /S23A 1072/

(37) why you n- you 're supposed to chew a certain amount ? S0021: but like if you do n't chew like the mechanical action of chewing /S23A 1061/

Whereas the instances of *but* in a turn/initial position allowing the speaker to modify their previous replicas compile 21 out of 45 examples in total making it a close competition of the two functions. Few examples of such instances are as follows:

(3) he was making like bootleg alcohol for me for Christmas S0032: mm S0021: erm **but** then I was so I was also convinced that actually he was /S23A 148/

(58) experience so it 's a bit better really S0094: >> experi- S0021: >> mm S0094: >> mm (.) yeah S0021: **but** also that 's very much like I could get down with that /S23A 610/

(41) just would like not eat anything at all S0021: >> mm yeah (.) yeah S0094: erm (.) **but** I would just be like ah the things that I look forward /S23A 1125/

Whenever the utterances abruptly finish with *but*, or the replica is interrupted by the other speaker, in such cases the *but* does not have a meaningful position as a coordinator in the construction as the following constituent is absent, the sentences with *but* in this position are thus eliminated form this analysis for the practical reasons as they do not represent a logical proposition. This does not mean, however, that a coordinator cannot occur in the medial position (ex.10) and in the certain cases (ex.11), (ex. 14) after a pause produced in the middle of the sentence by the same speaker:

(10) S0021: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm S0094: erm S0021: mm S0094: **but** it was really nice wine too but they do n't S0021: >> used to get that in one --ANONplace S0094: they do /S23A 217/

(11) that in one --ANONplace S0094: they do n't sell that here any more (.) **but** that was ages ago they stopped that one S0021: mm S0094: but I noticed /S23A 219/

(14) S0094: well it does seem to have coincided like quite well (.) with that (.) **but** then they stuck all kinds of other completely unnecessary things anyway S0021: >> mm /S23A 241/

The results displayed in table 2 of frequency distribution of discourse functions of *but* represent the support for the abovementioned expectations of this corpus-based research, albeit many more instances of occurrence of the conjunction has to be analyzed thoroughly prior to highlighting the need to transform the traditional scattered classification of the roles of *but* by taking in consideration the domineering presence of the function of 'peripheral' importance in spoken register.

4.2.2 Adversative function

As we have seen from the finding (table 2), what has been noted by Quirk et al. (1985, 935), i.e. the sentences introduced by the conjunction *but* carrying an adversative sence represents the majority of instances, does not complitely relate to the frequency of distribution in the spoken register, yielding 15% difference in favor of *but* in a turn/initial position. Nevertheless, it is the second most frequently assigned functions to indicate "a direct contrast between two coordinates" (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1311), as is expressed in the few following examples:

(49) to come by anyway especially in like some of the smaller shops **but you used to be able to get it in the supermarkets** (.) you /S23A 183/

(50) they sell at the art centre now in the art centre cafe **but it 's probably about twelve quid there** S0021: yeah yeah S0021: but then the /S23A 221/

(52) us S0032: they 've got where did all of this food and alcohol **but they do n't have tomato ketchup** what is wrong with them ? /S23A 338/

Other instances of adversative function of coordinative conjunction *but* can be derived from examples No. 46, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75.

4.2.3 Repudiation in positive terms

Furthermore, coordinative conjunction *but* frequently, 17% of occurrence in the similar environment as adversative function with a difference of presence of one nuance. This specific nuance of meaning of the conjunction is, as Quirk at al. (1985, 935) note, that there are certain variations in meaning, i.e. a repudiation in positive terms: "The contrast expressed by *but* may also be a repudiation in positive terms of what has been said or implied by negation in the first conjoin" (Quirk et al. 1985: 935). This is illustrated by the following instances:

(77) probably (.) probably (.) I do n't think I 've sent you any bottles **but** I have (.) I have that sort of thing S0094: >> do you get it /S23A 168/

(100) a disaster yeah it al- it did n't quite ruin the barbecue **but** people were definitely judging it harshly for us S0032: they 've got where /S23A 336/

Another nuance is concerning the nature of the constituent following *but*. As well as in the instances of adversative function, the conjoining of clauses, phrases and individual words is allowed by the conjunction. However, the function of repudiation could be said to display a

tendency to be applied when conjoining smaller constituents, for example, noun phrases (ex. 78), (ex.87):

(78) or like S0095: >> taste person S0032: I du n no sweet chocolatey type things **but apple pies and things** S0094: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm mm S0032: >> I get behind those /S23A 298/

(87) which is his argument S0094: yeah S0032: which I do n't agree with S0021: yeah S0032: **but (.) sort of instinct** S0094: mm (.) mm S0021: well UNKMALE[??]: can you pass that water please /S23A 1199/

Other instances containing this function of coordinative conjunction *but* are represented by examples No. 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92.

4.2.4 Preventative function

It can be noted that the following instance of coordinative conjunction *but* (ex. 93) is valid for the adversative function:

(93) S0094: because we 've got been getting this box stuff S0021: >> oh right (.) yeah **but** I I ca n't find any anywhere S0095: oh yeah cos that S0021: >> I /S23A 196/
However, this instance of *but* rather indicated the preventative use. Unlike the adversative function, Quirck et al. note that there are certain variations in meaning i.e. "it can be used dynamically, in the preventative use, when the complement is dynamic" (Quirk et al. 1985: 935). In the cases when the preventative use of *but* is put in use, "the situation expressed in the second coordinate prevents the realization of the one hypothetically entertained in the first" (ibid.), which is exemplified in 7% of instances of coordinative conjunction *but* or examples No. 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99.

4.2.5 *But* approximating the category of another part of speech

As Biber et al. (1999, 81) point out, *but,* apart from being used in a coordinating function, can display the features making it approximate the category of other parts of speech, for instance, of a preposition, an adverb or be a part of a complex subordinator. The following example is the single instance of *but* approximating the category of an adverb appeared in this corpus findings:

(100) S0032: really miss them S0094: see interesting that you sent me the text going **but** fruit and veg I though mm she sounds like she needs greens /S23A 36/
As we can observe from this example, the use of *but* is featuring a specific semantic meaning i.e. *but* with the sense 'only'.

5 Conclusion

The coordinative conjunction *but* was chosen with the purpose of exploring the patterns of containing it as well as attempt to provide an all-encompassing classification of functions of *but* in various instances of spoken register excerpted from a corpus of a spoken British English.

The results supplied by the analytical part of this research supported the evidence of the initial hypothesis that the classification of the conjunction *but* as a coordinating conjunction in a contemporary spoken British English is rather unsettled. This was concluded from the evidence that reflect the functions extending in certain cases to the function of a sentence/turn-initial coordinator which is much more likely to be found in dialogues and quoted speech as it indicates a spontaneity of reactions.

Besides providing the support for the pre-suppositions based on the already conducted corpora as well as non-corpora-based researches of Biber at al. and Quirk et al. that the most pervasive conjunction in the spoken register will turn out to be *but*, and its most common function as a turn/initial coordinator and the second most common adversative function, the research also was inclined to propose a need of concentrating more on what is rightfully considered to be, in a traditional sense, a 'marginal' role of conjunction but in a written, specifically, academic discourse, where the use of *but* is not as pervasive in comparison to the spoken discourse, where its functions not only profusely extends but transcends the boundaries of categorical definition combining the features of subordinators or other parts of speech.

The results displayed in the tables 1-3 reflect the frequency distribution of discourse functions of *but*. They represent the support for the abovementioned expectations of this corpus-based research, albeit the domineering presence of the function of 'peripheral' importance in spoken register, many more instances of occurrence of the conjunction but must be analyzed prior to transforming the traditional scattered classification of the roles of but.

The function of *but* as a sentence/turn-initial coordinator has realized the potential of exhibiting the prevailing frequency of 45% among other discourse functions in the spoken register, including adversative function, preventative function, repudiation in positive terms. Such sorting out of functions by the frequency of their distribution highlights the need to study coordinating conjunction *but* with more attention to the semantics of the construction it conjuncts with. In this respect, Biber et al. (1999, 82) make an observation: "*but* is the only coordinator which is far more frequent in conversation than in all the other registers" which they note should

be seen in conjunction with the high frequency of negatives in conversation and another closely related concept: contrast, which are essential part of the interactive nature of the conversation.

The surprising willingness of the speakers to use *but* more often in a 'add-on' strategy for the linear syntax of the conversation, than, for instance, as a coordinative conjunction expressing adversative meaning could reveal further differences in the semantic preferences of the contemporary speakers of English.

Given the interactive character and a nature of unprepared, somewhat spontaneous reaction of the spoken discourse, this research attempted to make sense of the grammar of conversation taking into the account the nuances of each meaning of *but*. This was achieved by creating an all-encompassing interpretation of the context for each instance of function of *but*. Due to the contextual ambiguities, not all interpretations are clear-cut examples of a different function, however, most of the examples represent a simple one constituent case as is typical for the spoken register (Biber et al. 1999: 117).

As seen from the Table 1 reflecting the frequency with which conjunction *but* occurs in sentence/turn-initial position, we can presume that the higher frequency of it in spoken register among all other functions suggests what has already been suggested by Biber et al. (1992, 84), more specifically, that the traditional analysis of constructions connected by the means of paratactical coordination is to be improved. The change would involve regarding the coordinators employed in sentence/turn-initial positions sharing more properties of another word class, e.g. preposition or as an element of subordination, which, as Biber et al. (1992, 84) note would not change the status of a following structure into a subordinate clause.

The frequency with which coordinators occur in sentence/turn-initial position and even at paragraph boundaries, i.e. "where the coordinator connects equal elements and is related in the same way to each of these elements" (Biber et al. 1999: 84) suggests that the traditional analysis of coordination may not always be the best one. Rather, in such cases of coordination, the coordinative conjunction is more closely connected with the element which it introduces, and there is "good reason to regard it as an initiator of the following phrase or clause on a par with prepositions and subordinators (except that it does not mark the following structure as subordinate)" (Biber et al. 1999: 84).

6 References

Biber, D., S. Johansson, G. Leech, S. Conrad and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Harlow: Longman.

Burchfield, R.W. (1992). *Points of View*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dušková, L. et al. (2012). *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* [Online]. Praha: Academia. Available from www.mluvniceanglictiny.cz (accessed: 1 August 2018).

Fowler, H W, and R W. Burchfield (1996). *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Gleitman, Lila R. (1965). "Coordinating Conjunctions in English." *Language*, vol. 41, no. 2, pp. 260–293. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/411878.

Huddleston, R. and G. K. Pullum (2002). *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Huddleston, R. and G. K. Pullum (2005). *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hudson, R. (1988). "Coordination and Grammatical Relations." *Journal of Linguistics*, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 303–342. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/4175947.

Quirk, R., J. Svartvik, S. Greenbaum and G. Leech (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman.

Quirk, R., S. Greenbaum (1990). *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Harlow: Longman

Webster (1960). *New World Dictionary of the American Language*. Cleveland; New York: World Pub. Co.

Sources:

Spoken BNC2014 – accessed from https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/

7 Resumé

Tématem této práce je zkoumání anglické koordinační spojky *but*. *But* je obvykle určováno dle schopnosti této spojky tvořit koordinace mezi větnými členy. Význam but se určuje podle typu větného členu, který za spojkou stojí. Jedná se nejen o spojení vět ilustrovaných v 92% případů mého výzkumu, ale i o příklady menšího rozsahu, jakým jsou například spojení různých větných členů, t.j. frází. Různá vyložení významu *but* lze v každém spojení rozlišit na základě sémantických rozdílů větných elementů, které se ve spojení s *but* mohou vyskytnout, a které mohou být vodítkem při určení konkrétního významu.

Teoretická část práce je založena nejen na porovnání různých typů koordinačních spojek jako jsou *and*, *or*, *but*, ale i na popsání jejich syntaktických a sémantických možností užití. Práce dále shrnuje přístupy ke klasifikaci funkce *but*, a to nejen jako spojky, ale také popisuje její další významy a funkce, popsané z různých pohledů významných anglických gramatik. Metodologická část je zaměřena na rozebrání odlišných významů, které *but* projevuje ve větách nalezených ve 100 příkladech získaných ze současného mluveného britského národního korpusu.

Obecně se uvádí, že v nejširším rozsahu nalezneme *but* v adverzativním významu jako koordinační spojku. Někteří autoři jako Huddleston a Pullum však pohlíží na *but* jako na větný člen s významem „kromě," zastávající roli předložky. Tito autoři navíc prohlašují, že tento rozdíl vytvořený různým pojetím *but*, mění význam tohoto slova a potenciálně posouvá *but* ze své obvyklé kategorie spojky do kategorie předložek.

Jinými slovy, „koordinační" *but* s čistě adverzativním významem, typicky zastává roli spojky, zatímco větný člen, např. předmět, který je pomocí but spojený a nese význam „jenom" se svou kategorií blíží předložce. Tyto a další nuance ovlivňující volbu a změnu významu koordinační konstrukce se zaměřují na zkoumání tendencí v mluvené řeči a jsou uváděny v teoretické části. Jedním z těchto je princip 'add-on' strategie mluvčího, který říká, že v mluvené angličtině je obecná tendence zvolit *but* pro jednodušší spojení dvou a více kontrastních myšlenek v rámci konverzace. Z toho vyplývá, že *but* vystupuje v roli koordinátora pro začátek výpovědi v konverzaci v mnoha případech mluvené řeči.

Koordinační spojka *but* je vybrána pro analýzu za účelem průzkumu příkladů, které tuto spojku obsahují, a taktéž za účelem poskytnutí všech významů zahrnutých v klasifikaci jeho

funkce. Tato spojka byla vybrána také jakožto spojka hodně se používající ve spojení se samostatnými slovy, frázemi a větnými členy. Současná analýza shromáždila na 100 příkladů mluvené řeči, popsané z pohledu různých koordinačních funkcí vzhledem k sémantickým vlastnostem *but* v jeho vztahu k členu, se kterým spojení tvoří. Srovnání těchto funkcí vzniklo na základě rozdělení frekvence výskytu každé z nich, což je zobrazeno v tabulkách 1 až 3, rozdělených podle typu funkce a typu větných členů, které but spojují.

Do analytické části byly vybrány takové příklady, ve kterých se podařilo uvést typ členů, které za *but* následují. Z tohoto důvodu byly z analýzy vyloučeny příklady, ve kterých se *but* vyskytovalo ve výpovědích přerušených jinou replikou, a nemělo prodloužení po konci přerušování. V těchto případech však *but* nemá v této konstrukci smysluplnou pozici jako koordinátor, a to z důvodu, že následující element je nepřítomen. Co se týče této pozice *but* ve větách, podobné příklady nepředstavují pro analýzu logický návrh a z praktických důvodů byly eliminovány.

Zkoumané věty se výrazně odlišují ve frekvenci výskytu jednotlivých typů funkce *but*. Pomocí této analýzy se došlo k následujícím výsledkům: *but* se v mluvené řeči častěji vyskytuje v roli koordinátora pro začátek výpovědi (45%), než v roli koordinátora ve významu odporovacím (30%). I přesto, že se *but* v roli koordinační spojky v největším počtu objevilo v odporovacím významu, u dalších jeho rolí bylo například zjištěno, že jeho třetí nejfrekventovanější rolí, je role preventivní: tj. vyjádření jakéhosi upřesnění, nebo opravy (,repudiation') výpovědi, obsažené v 17% příkladů.

Funkce *but*, v pozici koordinační spojky pro začátek výpovědi, dosáhla převažující frekvence (45%) nad jinými funkcemi v mluveném diskurzu, a to včetně funkce odporovací, preventivní funkce, a zavržení (repudiation) v kladném slova smyslu, v 7% příkladů. Vzhledem k interaktivnímu charakteru a nepřipravené, poněkud spontánní reakce mluvčího v diskurzu, se tento výzkum pokusil pochopit gramatiku rozhovoru s důrazem na nuance každého z významů slova *but*. Tento výzkum byl proveden skrze shromáždění těchto významových nuancí do klasifikace funkcí *but*, a to zejména na základě porovnání frekvence výskytu každého z jeho významů. Tato metoda, mimo jiné, odhalila další rozdíly v sémantické preferenci současných mluvčích britské angličtiny.

8 Appendix

But in a turn/initial position

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
1	S23A 41	was n't even me that said that that was -- ANONnameN S0094: >> --UNCLEARWORD S0032: >> yeah S0094: **but** Co-op has loads of like reduced vegetables (.) but it 's like UNKFEMALE[??]: --UNCLEARWORD
2	S23A 41	was --ANONnameN S0094: >> --UNCLEARWORD S0032: >> yeah S0094: but Co-op has loads of like reduced vegetables (.) **but** it 's like UNKFEMALE[??]: --UNCLEARWORD UNKFEMALE[??]: (...) mm mm mm (...) S0094: yeah I help yourself to
3	S23A 148	he was making like bootleg alcohol for me for Christmas S0032: mm S0021: erm **but** then I was so I was also convinced that actually he was
4	S23A 148	I was so I was also convinced that actually he was n't (.) **but** I was like it 's a reasonable enough theory that I can
5	S23A 155	have to keep guessing S0021: >> it was like a double bluff yeah S0094: yeah S0032: **but** you also guessed that it was gon na be tasty alcohol S0021: yeah
6	S23A 183	S0094: mm S0032: >> of red wine for me (.) I think that makes sense S0021: erm **but** d' you know I 've noticed recently I do n't know if

7	S23A 190	and now you can only get organic sunflower oil (.) mm S0095: mm S0094: mm S0021: **but** you used to be able to get quite a few organic things
8	S23A 192	supermarket you could get at least one type of organic wine S0094: mm S0021: **but** now not even in Co-op which is you know one of the
9	S23A 217	the ducks eat the slugs and stuff S0021: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm S0094: erm S0021: mm S0094: **but** it was really nice wine too but they do n't S0021: >> used to
10	S23A 217	S0021: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm S0094: erm S0021: mm S0094: but it was really nice wine too **but** they do n't S0021: >> used to get that in one -- ANONplace S0094: they do
11	S23A 219	that in one --ANONplace S0094: they do n't sell that here any more (.) **but** that was ages ago they stopped that one S0021: mm S0094: but I noticed
12	S23A 221	any more (.) but that was ages ago they stopped that one S0021: mm S0094: **but** I noticed they sell at the art centre now in the art
13	S23A 223	centre cafe but it 's probably about twelve quid there S0021: yeah yeah S0021: **but** then the Co-op used to do a nice cos they still do
14	S23A 241	S0094: well it does seem to have coincided like quite well (.) with that (.) **but** then they stuck all kinds of other completely unnecessary things anyway S0021: >> mm
15	S23A 420	significantly further ahead than this S0094: oh S0032: I 'm only a little bit S0094: >> **but** you had a tiny portion S0021: mm S0032: ah that 's what it is

16	S23A 471	that S0021: I mean it does alter the taste a little bit S0094: >> mm S0021: **but** it 's not always like it depends on how you like your
17	S23A 489	drunkenness S0095: yeah S0021: and then more Jacob 's Creek wine I presume S0095: >> yeah S0021: **but** like h- when you 're buying it off like a small estate
18	S23A 512	the smaller that is the better in a way S0021: mm S0094: >> mm (.) mm S0095: **but** then there 's the whole thing about selecting the cork for certain
19	S23A 544	really cold at the moment cos they 're not there S0032: >> no S0021: mm S0094: **but** in any case it 's just a bit sort of weird S0032: having
20	S23A 555	S0095: yeah S0094: though if they 're not there it 's not so weird S0021: **but** also S0094: >> but then that 's also a bit weird too S0021: >> like when
21	S23A 556	if they 're not there it 's not so weird S0021: but also S0094: >> **but** then that 's also a bit weird too S0021: >> like when you 're
22	S23A 596	stars and stuff really well from there S0095: >> that is quite cool actually S0094: **but** it 's still a bit like well we 'll have to like
23	S23A 599	and have a bath and come back and S0021: >> you see that 's **but** that 's UNKMALE[??]: >> well okay S0095: >> that 's more of a like S0094: no that
24	S23A 610	experience so it 's a bit better really S0094: >> experi- S0021: >> mm S0094: >> mm (.) yeah S0021: **but** also that 's very much like I could get down with that

25	S23A 632	Japan you do S0095: depends -- UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> I would n't mind if I would S0094: **but** like they would n't be watching us anyway would they ? UNKMALE[??]: I
26	S23A 640	not S0095: they 'd be standing at the side with a towel S0095: waiting (.) S0094: **but** I du n no S0095: >> --UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> like neither of us really like getting
27	S23A 690	S0095: yeah I can see that S0021: it 's very much just like --UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> **but** it 's dark in there (.) S0032: >> I can see how that would be
28	S23A 693	in there (.) S0032: >> I can see how that would be a bonus UNKFEMALE[??]: >> -- UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> **but** it 's dark in saunas S0095: >> limited visibility is possible S0094: >> it 's not
29	S23A 708	S0094: no not in the one that I like going in S0021: oh well S0094: **but** in any case even if it was light like I mean it
30	S23A 632	Japan you do S0095: depends -- UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> I would n't mind if I would S0094: **but** like they would n't be watching us anyway would they ? UNKMALE[??]: I
31	S23A 721	the ones that stand around naked -- UNCLEARWORD change most of the time S0094: >> **but** like in in a kind of like s- environment where most people

32	S23A 727	best hot tubs I ever went in was the muddiest as well S0094: >> **but** you can also cooch up and stuff so they can barely see
33	S23A 782	they were like they were blowing like some bubbles in it S0021: >> smell S0032: **but** they were (.) it was n't really worth looking it was like S0094: >> your
34	S23A 837	would be too bad but S0095: >> rabbit poo ? S0021: no S0032: I mean S0095: yeah S0032: **but** you 'd have the problem if you went for a dunk they
35	S23A 885	S0021: they were wrong (.) they were just outright wrong S0095: that seems a bit S0032: >> **but** I think you 'd ruin both of them S0094: >> mm that is n't
36	S23A 965	them S0032: >> I I do n't sprouts I really do n't like sprouts S0021: but today S0032: >> **but** these really are (.) er the Christmas ones
37	S23A 991	like a gravy and hidden yeah S0095: >> yeah you need lots of gravy S0094: **but** I did n't at least I did n't do loads of them
38	S23A 1061	why you n- you 're supposed to chew a certain amount ? S0021: **but** like if you do n't chew like the mechanical action of chewing
39	S23A 1072	a drink S0021: mm S0095: a slightly lumpy smoothie that you have to chew S0094: >> **but** I often make those cos I get bored of blending and it
40	S23A 1091	Watchers type shake except S0094: >> oh right like smoothies all this shit ? S0032: **but** it 's like fully nutritionally balanced S0094: right S0032: so you could live just

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
41	S23A 1114	but I think S0094: yeah I can see the attraction for people like S0032: >> **but** it 's probably quite good if you 're in a bit of
42	S23A 1125	just would like not eat anything at all S0021: >> mm yeah (.) yeah S0094: erm (.) **but** I would just be like ah the things that I look forward
43	S23A 1141	nope (.) yeah S0021: no S0094: I just know that 's not for me but S0032: >> **but** (.) it 's saving him money it 's saving him time and he
44	S23A 1154	different lifestyles but S0094: mm S0032: I 'm not that suspicious it it 's S0021: >> **but** like on a day to day basis you do change like what
45	S23A 1283	I 'm trying to think of a grey food now and S0021: >> see **but** you can see how like like (.) I imagine in my lifestyle like

But in adversative sense

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
46	S23A 60	and then I assumed it would all come off as one bit **but** I had to sort of S0094: how weird ? S0032: ping it off with
47	S23A 127	S0032: >> I still I still bottled some up and brought it down anyway **but** S0032: with er with the warning do not drink this (.) S0094: it 's like
48	S23A 130	drink this (.) S0094: it 's like this is my attempt made an effort **but** it 's not really S0032: >> mm (.) mm S0094: oh S0032: hopefully by the time --ANONnameF
49	S23A 183	to come by anyway especially in like some of the smaller shops **but** you used to be able to get it in the supermarkets (.) you

50	S23A 221	they sell at the art centre now in the art centre cafe **but** it 's probably about twelve quid there S0021: yeah yeah S0021: but then the
51	S23A 223	used to do a nice cos they still do their Fairtrade ones **but** they S0094: mm S0021: used to do like an organic Argentinian Malbec I think
52	S23A 338	us S0032: they 've got where did all of this food and alcohol **but** they do n't have tomato ketchup what is wrong with them ?
53	S23A 415	eating S0032: mm (.) I am S0094: so are you S0032: so are you S0021: I know **but** S0021: --ANONnameM 's normally significantly further ahead than this S0094: oh S0032: I 'm only
54	S23A 472	how you like your wine basically S0095: so it s- just changes it **but** not always for the better S0021: >> it ju- it changes it (.) mm I
55	S23A 499	it into a thing S0094: >> though maybe the metal would be oh cos **but** screw tops S0032: or just giant corks S0021: mm (.) mm UNKFEMALE[??]: yeah S0032: just really big
56	S23A 541	of those S0094: they 've just got into this new house and stuff **but** it 's just like it 's not that appealing (.) especially as their
57	S23A 547	like yeah S0094: yeah S0032: I can have a shower it 's just fine **but** a bath 's just so much more S0094: >> it 's a bit more
58	S23A 612	go out there S0094: mm S0021: so you would go out there butt naked **but** that is perfectly socially acceptable S0094: yeah S0021: and the way to do it
59	S23A 620	bubbles then it 's just a bath with your friends and S0021: >> yeah **but** that 's normally their swimming costume and stuff though is n't it

60	S23A 716	was weird gym guys S0095: >> it 's just weird S0094: very weird UNKMALE[??]: mm S0094: obviously **but** you would n't go in there --UNCLEARWORD S0021: >> no also it 's not
61	S23A 890	'd be better separately S0094: mm S0021: mm S0094: like chocolate and mascarpone 's okay **but** S0032: >> like cheese and chutney ? S0094: chocolate and cheddar mm S0021: mascarpone ? S0032: >> quite
62	S23A 966	the Christmas ones were sort of alright-ish I guess (.) I tried them (.) **but** these are quite nice S0094: pretty good S0032: they S0094: we were just saying like
63	S23A 988	S0095: well S0094: >> did we overdo them ? maybe S0095: >> they were edible but S0094: mm S0095: **but** they were n't like --UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> but only like a gravy and hidden
64	S23A 989	maybe S0095: >> they were edible but S0094: mm S0095: but they were n't like --UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> **but** only like a gravy and hidden yeah S0095: >> yeah you need lots of
65	S23A 1056	in the blender S0032: mm S0094: there 's a bit of saliva missing S0021: >> mm S0094: **but** it 's okay for me to eat S0021: no I know but do
66	S23A 1058	's okay for me to eat S0021: no I know but do n't S0094: >> **but** not too S0021: is n't there like a reaction in your body where
67	S23A 1095	ah how soulless S0032: >> erm there 've been people doing I know **but** like for a lot of people people do n't like cooking and
68	S23A 1150	can have a complete like range of all the nutrients and stuff **but** that might n- you might be a bit different -- UNCLEARWORD S0032: well people

69	S23A 1151	n- you might be a bit different --UNCLEARWORD S0032: well people are different **but** there 's different sort of things for different people in different lifestyles
70	S23A 1151	there 's different sort of things for different people in different lifestyles **but** S0094: mm S0032: I 'm not that suspicious it it 's S0021: >> but like on
71	S23A 1155	need like and like other days you just you know S0032: >> yeah true **but** a lot of people just eat the same thing every day anyway
72	S23A 1192	that anyway I would imagine S0032: >> er perhaps socialising or you might be **but** yeah you could get like an extra hour of it or something
73	S23A 1216	things he can do now S0032: >> oh yeah we had all the food **but** he does n't eat food any more so it was n't really
74	S23A 1326	well there 's a couple of things in here that are main **but** most of it is random random I think right let 's see
75	S23A 1395	--UNCLEARWORD as well cos your mum got the S0094: ah S0021: ones that like S0094: **but** S0021: only float I think S0094: >> if you do n't want them we could

Repudiation in positive terms

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
76	S23A 101	on the peanut butter UNKMALE[??]: >> wow S0094: d' you want some pepper ? S0032: no **but** can I have some of your chutney please ? S0094: mm yeah it
77	S23A 168	probably (.) probably (.) I do n't think I 've sent you any bottles **but** I have (.) I have that sort of thing S0094: >> do you get it

78	S23A 298	or like S0095: >> taste person S0032: I du n no sweet chocolatey type things **but** apple pies and things S0094: >> mm (.) mm (.) mm mm S0032: >> I get behind those
79	S23A 336	a disaster yeah it al- it did n't quite ruin the barbecue **but** people were definitely judging it harshly for us S0032: they 've got where
80	S23A 534	(.) well cos we 're looking after well we 're not looking after **but** we 're going round to check our friends ' erm house while
81	S23A 628	naked UNKMALE[??]: not if your mates are there to be hone- S0021: well no **but** in Japan you do S0095: depends --UNCLEARWORD S0094: >> I would n't mind if I
82	S23A 966	I do n't sprouts I really do n't like sprouts S0021: **but** today S0032: >> but these really are (.) er the Christmas ones were sort of alright-ish I
83	S23A 1009	works S0094: yeah yeah (.) mm S0032: like kale I really do not like kale **but** it 's really good for you (.) so if you just put it
84	S23A 1011	stuff like avocado and banana you do n't even taste it S0094: yeah S0032: **but** you get the healthiness anyway S0094: new smoothie recipe S0021: mm S0032: mm S0094: very nice
85	S23A 1057	S0021: >> mm S0094: but it 's okay for me to eat S0021: no I know but do n't S0094: >> **but** not too S0021: is n't there like a reaction in
86	S23A 1112	well and I do n't S0094: mm S0032: think it would be for me **but** I think S0094: yeah I can see the attraction for people like S0032: >> but
87	S23A 1199	which is his argument S0094: yeah S0032: which I do n't agree with S0021: yeah S0032: **but** (.) sort of instinct

		S0094: mm (.) mm S0021: well UNKMALE[??]: can you pass that water please
88	S23A 1203	of instinct S0094: mm (.) mm S0021: well UNKMALE[??]: can you pass that water please ? S0032: **but** he is also -- ANONnameM so I mean S0021: oh god S0032: yeah right so
89	S23A 1253	apparent S0094: mm S0032: where 's your kitchen ? I do n't have one **but** I do have my hot tub room S0094: yeah S0032: yeah S0094: come and drink
90	S23A 1264	do n't I 'd definitely not be doing it all the time **but** I definitely wan na see what it 's about and S0095: mm S0032: you
91	S23A 1286	n't have time to cook S0032: >> --UNCLEARWORD S0094: mm mm S0021: like every single day **but** it 's S0094: mm S0021: actually really healthy for me to make time to
92	S23A 1290	time to cook S0094: mm S0021: not that it has to be for everybody **but** I just think like for me I could very easily if there

But in preventative sense

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
93	S23A 196	S0094: because we 've got been getting this box stuff S0021: >> oh right (.) yeah **but** I I ca n't find any anywhere S0095: oh yeah cos that S0021: >> I
94	S23A 236	was really quite nice and S0021: mm S0094: quite cheap and good and stuff **but** they stopped stocking that now here anyway S0021: d' you reckon like people

95	S23A 558	though you 're thinking it 's not weird because it was weird **but** since they 're not there it S0094: it S0032: yeah S0094: it 's time yeah
96	S23A 569	bath especially if it 's in the middle of the room S0094: >> yeah **but** I mean if they 're that observant neighbours S0032: >> that was observant S0094: they
97	S23A 681	like an old horsebox (.) into a sauna S0094: mm S0021: that was quite cool **but** erm (.) mm (.) see I find like like I think going in water
98	S23A 1044	S0094: it is a bit weird it 's a bit like baby food (.) **but** I just quite like y- I just see it as like ah
99	S23A 1063	S0094: er well I n- like (.) only a bit S0032: >> to an extent **but** I think just getting food in your belly just does the same

But approximating the category of another part of speech

Number	SpokenBNC2014 code	Example
100	S23A 36	S0032: really miss them S0094: see interesting that you sent me the text going **but** fruit and veg I though mm she sounds like she needs greens